

Hancock, BERNARD M., Vicar of St. James', Southampton Docks. *Love and Life*. On open letter on Birth Control to the Rt. Rev. H. R. Wakefield, D.D., Lord Bishop of Birmingham, and Chairman of the National Birth-rate Commission. Leicester: Satchell and Son; price 4d.

THIS open letter is painfully interesting in that it indicates the survival of an attitude of mind which one had hoped was a thing of the past. As is well known, the Bishop of Birmingham in his evidence before the Birth Rate Commission stated that "morally, as well as eugenically, it was right for people in certain circumstances to use harmless means to control the birth rate." This opinion has so worked upon the mind of Mr. Hancock that he has felt impelled to write this pamphlet. It is strongly anti-neo-malthusian, an attempt to put an end to what he calls "the mechanical-chemical-sex-as-an-end-in-itself practice," leading "to an acceptance of the practice of 'sodomy' and 'Lesbism.'" If repeated "begging of the question" and copious references to "the tree in the midst of the garden," to Caiaphas in "Convocation," to "Satan" were legitimate argument in this scientific age, there would be little left of Neo-Malthusianism. The cream of the pamphlet can be given in a sentence: "Logically, mechanical birth control leads to the lethal chamber." When will our hide-bound ecclesiastics realise that, while religion has a legitimate and large place in man's life, there is no room for clerical traditionalism either in eugenics or ethics? When marital sexual intercourse is indulged in only for procreative purposes the result is an increase in prostitution and sexual "amusement," which are the very things he deplors. We may say regarding this pamphlet what Forel says regarding Catholic precept concerning sexual connection in general and marriage in particular: "The results of such a combination of sexual life with religious prescriptions are a mixture of ridiculous prudery and continual eroticism."

T. W.

By Various Authors. *How to Maintain and Improve the Race*. Issued in conjunction with the National Council of Public Morals. London; price 4d.

IN this booklet of 30 pages we have presented a report of the Lansdowne House Conference of the National Council of Public Morals, on May 23rd, 1919. A number of representative people were on the platform, the president being the Bishop of Birmingham. The presidential address consisted mainly of a review of the work of the N.C.P.M. and a consideration of the tasks which remained. These tasks, briefly enumerated, were the relaxation of discipline in the adolescent, the disquieting condition of the matrimonial and child-bearing spheres, housing, the need for sex-education, the regulation of the amusements of the people, and the danger of venereal disease. The Right Hon. C. Addison, M.P., expressed the opinion that the ill-results of existing conditions arose from two causes—improper or unsatisfactory surroundings and ignorance. He pleaded with the churches to see that local authorities did their duty in this matter of housing and the organisation of health services throughout the country. Lord Willoughby de Broke urged the Ministry of Health to collect and tabulate information for the sake of those fighting the spread of racial poisons. The Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster stated the Roman Catholic view of the limitation of the birth rate and the marriage bond. Lord Parmoor stated in connection with the problem of prostitution that "restoration of character cannot be brought about by harsh criticism and punishment." Principal A. E. Garvie agreed with Benjamin Kidd that the condition of progress was the subordination of individuals and the present to the universal and the future. Obviously, the N.C.P.M. are alive to some of our social problems and the need for knowledge in dealing with them.

T. W.